MADRAS WAR REVIEW

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DIARY OF THE WAR

7th Feb.—In Eritrea the situation around Keren is developing satisfactorily. In Abyssinia the British advance along the Gondar road is progressing and British patrols are penetrating along the whole front of Italian Somaliland.

Fighting in Albania continues. It appears that Italian resistance is somewhat firmer.

The British destroyer *Vanity* has shot down a German bomber which attempted to attack a convoy.

It is reported that Mr. Matsuoka will preside over the opening meeting of the Peace Conference between Thailand and Indo-China.

Royal Air Force bombers attack Boulogne, Dunkirk, Calais and Ostend.

Enemy aircraft raid Malta. No damage is reported.

Air activity over Great Britain. Bombs dropped on a town in Scotland and East Anglia. Some damage was done and there were a number of casualties.

8th Feb.—The British armoured column has now reached the coast between Soluk and Agenka. In the Keren area of Eritrea, British pressure is increasing and the British troops pursue the enemy withdrawing towards Arreza.

Italians abandon Tepelini. Fighting is concentrated near the source of the Skumbi river and Ostrovitza mountain heights. The Greeks inflict great losses on Mussolini's Blackshirt troops when they launched counter-attacks.

Compulsory Labour Service for young men on reaching the age of 20 has been introduced by the Vichy Government. The period of service is eight months. The law applies to the French Empire.

The House of Representatives passed the Lease and Lend Bill to aid Britain after a debate lasting six days. The Bill now goes to the Senate.

The House voted to limit the amount of the existing military or naval equipment which might be devoted to the programme to aid Britain to about 1,300 million dollars worth.

Lord Moyne becomes the new Secretary of State for the Colonies in succession to the late Lord Lloyd. Mr. Earnest Brown has been appointed Minister of Health and Mr. Malcolm Macdonald, at present Minister of Health, will be High Commissioner in Canada. Mr. Thomas Johnston is appointed Secretary of State for Scotland.

The Official French News Agency reports that Marshal Petain proposed that M. Laval should enter the Government as a Minister of State and a member of the committee which would direct affairs. M. Laval has, however, refused the Marshal's offer.

Royal Air Force attack enemy supply ships off the coast of Southern Norway, industrial targets at Mannheim and objectives at Rotterdam and Flushing.

Air activity over Britain. Royal Air Force fighters destroy an enemy aircraft off the South-east coast and an enemy float-plane off the South-west coast. Anti-aircraft gunners shoot down a German raider near Folkestone.

9th Feb.—El Agheila, about a hundred and forty miles south of Benghazi, has been occupied by the British armoured forces. General Berganzoli, Marshal Graziani's right-hand man in Libya, was captured at Benghazi.

Royal Air Force bomb Caleto and Maritza in Rhodes, and Asmara and Keren in Italian East Africa.

Enemy planes bomb houses and a church at Janina in Epirus. The cathedral of Sainte Sophie at Salonika was damaged. The Greek Air Force shoot down eight enemy planes. British Air Forces in Greece destroy four enemy fighters during an encounter with the enemy fighter force in the Klissura area.

The Royal Navy bombard Genoa. Royal Air Force drop bombs on military objectives at Pisa and also damage one of the largest oil plants in Italy at Leghorn.

While approaching a British convoy in the North Sea the escort vessel, *Pytchley*, shoots down an enemy aircraft.

There was slight enemy air activity over Britain. A few bombs were dropped in Yorkshire, East Anglia, Essex, the Home counties and the west of Scotland. Little damage and few casualties were caused.

The British Government have accepted the offer of the Dutch Indies Government to convert the motor-ship *Orange* into a hospital-ship and present it to the British Government for the evacuation of British casualties in the Near East.

M. Flandin, Foreign Minister in the Vichy Government, has resigned. Admiral Darlan becomes the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs and remains the Navy Minister.

Mr. Wendell Willkie arrives at New York after his return journey from England.

Japanese naval aircraft bomb a suspension bridge link on the Burma Road and also military establishments and factories in Kunming.

Enemy aircraft raided Malta. A few civilians were injured. Two German aircraft were shot down.

Royal Air Force attack Antwerp docks, oil tanks at Flushing and other objectives in North-West Germany and enemy occupied territory.

10th Feb.—In Libya General Wavell's Army is pushing towards Tripoli. Lt.-General Wilson has taken over command of Cyrenaica as Military Governor and General Officer Commanding in Chief. In Eritrea the British occupy Mersa Teclai and Kardra. South African troops advance 50 miles in Southern Abyssinia in the Hobok area. The British have captured over fifteen thousand prisoners at Benghazi.

Mr. Harry Hopkins, President Roosevelt's personal representative, has concluded his mission to England and returns to United States.

Trawlers *Almond* and *Arctic Tripper* have been sunk.

Sir Reginald Hoare, the British Minister in Rumania, has been withdrawn.

In anticipation of the collapse of the Fascist regime, a Free Italy Committee has been formed in London by certain Italians there to link together all Italians who are opposed to dictatorship, to reconquer for Italy her civil liberties through a Government for the benefit of all social classes, and to prepare Italy for a place in the new order which will result from the Allied victory. The Committee has not yet obtained any official recognition.

Royal Air Force raid Valona, Calato (Rhodes), Tepelini and Duki. Boulogne, Dunkirk, Calais, Cherbourg, Ostend, Hanover and Rotterdam. Four Royal Air Force aircraft are missing.

11th Feb.—General Tellera who commanded the Tenth Italian Army in Libya died after capture from wounds received in action south of Benghazi. Battle for Keren in Eritrea is proceeding. Koufra, an important military post between Libya and Abyssinia, is reported to have been captured by the Free French Forces. South African troops occupy Todenyang and Namaraputh. Royal Air Force bomb aerodrome at Addis Ababa and raid the Keren-Asmara area.

Extensive air raids were carried out by Italian aircraft on Greek territory round Janina, Preveza, Larissa, Epirus, Candia (Crete) and Corinth regions. Italian counter-attacks in the Ostrovitza mountains and the Devoli Valley were repulsed.

Mr. Wendell Willkie, giving evidence before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, declares that Britain needs both immediate and long-term assistance and the only way the United States can help Britain quickly is to enact the Aid to Britain Bill "with modifications."

News from Bulgaria indicate German war-like operations. The Greek Legation in Sofia advises all Greek women and children to leave Bulgaria. Mr. Churchill's reference to Bulgaria in his broadcast was suppressed in the Bulgarian press.

Premier De Valera declares that if voluntary methods of evacuation do not prove satisfactory Government will have to adopt compulsion.

Royal Navy bombard the German-occupied port of Ostend and shell the Flanders coast.

Long-range guns shell the south-east coast of England.

General Franco, it is reported, has left for Italy to confer with Mussolini.

British planes attack Catania in Sicily and destroy four enemy aircraft on the ground. Royal Air Force attack Bremen, Hanover Rotterdam, shipping at Christiansund in South Norway and a sea-plane base in Jutland.

12th Feb.—British troops continue to make progress in Eritrea moving in the direction of Mersa Talai. British forces occupy El Ghena.

General Franco and Sgr. Mussolini confer at Bordighera.

The French delegation taking part in the peace talks with Thailand in Tokyo rejects a demand by Mr. Matsuoka to acknowledge officially "Japan's dominating position in Asia." Though willing to acknowledge in principle "Japan's special position in Asia" after the conclusion of peace with Thailand the delegation refuses to undertake "to give Japan all facilities" in view of possible action in Southern Asia.

A Cairo report states that Marshal Graziani, the Italian Commander-in-Chief has left North Africa for Rome.

Japanese naval aircraft bomb the Burma Road.

The Belgian districts of Eupen, Malmedy and Moresnet have been incorporated in the Reich.

There has been small air activity over Britain. Very few bombs dropped and damage was slight. An enemy bomber was destroyed.

United States' exports of oil and petrol to Japan is brought indirectly under control.

German and Italian aircraft raid Malta. No damage or casualties resulted. Conscription of manpower in Malta both for the combatant and non-combatant services is announced.

13th Feb.—Situation around Keren in Eritrea continues to develop. British advance on Arreza is progressing satisfactorily. South African troops penetrate into the Hobok area (Abyssinia).

Americans are advised to leave the Far East as a precautionary measure in view of the disturbed conditions.

According to a Shanghai message Hainan is being actively prepared by the Japanese as a base for operations southwards.

Marshal Petain and General Franco confer at Montpellier.

The Yugoslav Prime Minister and Foreign Minister leave for Germany at the invitation of the German Government.

German long range guns on the French coast open fire across the Straits of Dover.

A few enemy aircraft flying singly drop bombs at points in East Anglia and North Scotland. Damage caused is slight.

WAR IN THE AIR

The following are the details of the British raids from home bases on enemy territory in Europe, ascertained by competent authorities for the week ending 4th February 1941:—

Date.	Targets.	British losses.	Enemy losses.
January 29, Wednesday.	R.A.F. night bomber raids on naval base at Wilhelmshaven ; other targets in N. W. Germany.	Nil.	..
January 30, Thursday.	(No reports.)		
January 31, Friday.	(No reports.)		
February 1, Saturday.	R.A.F. reconnaissance raids over occupied coasts and coastal waters. R.A.F. night bomber raids on invasion bases at Ostend, Boulogne, Brest.	2	.
February 2, Sunday.	R.A.F. day bomber and fighter " sweeps " over Straits of Dover and N. W. France, with raids on docks and barges at Boulogne and aerodromes at Ostend and Brest. R.A.F. night bomber raids on objectives in N. W. France.	1	4
February 3, Monday.	R.A.F. night bomber raids on invasion base at Brest ; other objectives in N.W France.	1	.
February 4, Tuesday.	R.A.F. night bomber raids on Dusseldorf (industrial works, railway junction, aerodrome) ; invasion bases at Cherbourg (naval base, repair yards), Brest, Dunkirk, Dieppe, Ostend ; aerodromes at Vannes and other centres in occupied France.	4	2

The following are the figures of losses of aircraft due to enemy air raids on Britain, ascertained by competent authorities for the week ending 4th February 1941 :—

Date.	British losses.	Enemy losses.
January 29	Nil.	..
January 30	Nil.	1
January 31	Nil.	2
February 1	Nil.	..
February 2	Nil.	..
February 3	Nil.	1
February 4	Nil.	4

TALKING POINTS

THE WEEK

The march of 150 miles in a week, surprise attack on the retreating Italian soldiers, the capture of Benghazi, not a shot being fired, the surrender of 15,000 Italian troops, these constitute a glorious chapter in the war which will long be remembered. Accounts of this marvellous feat of arms are coming in; the capture of El Agheila, south of Benghazi, and the prospective drive to Tripoli eastward are other features of the situation pregnant with possibilities. Remarkable as has been the capture of Benghazi, it is a mere episode in the series of operations in North Africa. The remaining 5 or 6 divisions of the Italian army when they reach Tripoli, if at all, will not be an army but a mere rabble. Another British triumph, this time on the sea, has been recorded early on Sunday, the 9th Feb. and this was the shelling of Genoa, the lovely Italian town of great industrial and military importance, by a fleet consisting of the battle-cruiser "Renown", the battleship "Malaya", which the Rome radio said was undergoing repairs, the air-craft carrier "Ark Royal", which, according to Lord Haw Haw, has been sunk several times, and the cruiser "Sheffield." This was referred to by Mr. Winston Churchill in his great speech on Sunday last and the importance of this enterprise is the subject of a separate note below.

To add to the discomfiture of Hitler, Marshal Petain has so far refused to go an inch beyond the Armistice terms, because to do so would compromise his honour. His offer to take M. Laval as a Minister of State and a Member of the Committee which would direct the affairs in France has been rejected with the result that Admiral Darlan has been appointed as Vice-Premier and the man who will succeed Marshal Petain if he become unable to perform his duties.

These striking developments account for the meeting of General Franco with Mussolini on the Italian Riviera on Tuesday last. There are wild speculations about the outcome of this meeting, but it is perfectly plain that Hitler is trying to fall back upon General Franco, having found Marshal Petain a stiff proposition. Franco has also had long conversations with his friend Marshal Petain on his way back.

Hitler is also fomenting trouble in the Balkans. Great Britain is withdrawing its representative in Rumania on the ground that it has allowed Germany to bring an expeditionary force. Rumania is also withdrawing its representative from Great Britain. What will Bulgaria do is the question that is being asked all over the world. Will it be able to resist the pressure of Germany? Or will it succumb as Rumania has done and allow Hitler to put it into his pocket as he has done Hungary? And what about Yugoslavia, whose Prime Minister and Foreign Minister saw Hitler yesterday (Friday)?

These and other points were dealt with by Mr. Winston Churchill in his broadcast speech on Sunday last, a speech which has obviously confounded the Axis Powers, brought confidence to the British public and made America feel that she should react quickly and be generous. "Give us tools and we will finish the job" was the British Premier's clarion call and Mr. Wendell Willkie, in his evidence before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, urged that it was advantageous to the United States as well as to Great Britain and the Democracies that that call should be responded to without any delay—call for ships, bombers and destroyers.

FRANCE'S RESISTANCE

All the threats and manoeuvres of Hitler in regard to France have so far failed. The recent launching of a German-inspired French political party in Paris, as a potential rival to the Vichy Government, has ignominiously failed in effect. Blackmail and extortion have failed and if Hitler has dropped Laval, it is not the first time that he has forsaken his friends and associates in evil. Hitler would not need French collaboration at all if he did not realize the extent of Mussolini's stupendous failure under the British hammer-blows and if he is not afraid that American aid to Britain is on the point of flowing in ever more largely than before. It is also clear at the same time that these very factors have emboldened the Vichy Government to refuse to collaborate with Germany in military matters. It is a significant fact that German-controlled newspapers in occupied France complain that General Weygand has been invested with full powers in the French Overseas Empire and it is believed that General Weygand as well as the French fleet received some weeks ago sealed orders, the precise nature of which is not known. But it is not difficult to guess that they were evidently intended to instruct the authorities concerned as to what to do in the event of matters coming to a crisis. Vichy's final refusal to collaborate, may possibly be followed by a Nazi descent on unoccupied France and by an attempt to seize the French warships and the North African bases. In that case unoccupied France would of course not be able to resist, but the French fleet and the French garrison and population in North Africa might well be expected to offer resistance and General Weygand would play an important part in any developments arising out of actual physical pressure exerted by Germans against France. In this case also British reaction to any contingency may fairly be expected to be prompt and far-reaching.

FRANCO-MUSSOLINI MEETING

The meeting between General Franco and Mussolini on Wednesday last in which the latter has probably played the part of a petitioner, instigated thereto by Hitler, has not been followed by any quick results, perhaps because Franco has been unable to promise the junior partner of the Axis any decisive help. A few days must elapse before the mystery is unravelled. The official communique that the identity of Italian and Spanish view-points concerning European problems and those which, at the present moment, are of interest to both countries was stressed at the conference which lasted morning and afternoon, is very vague. It is reported that Franco may be playing the part of a mediator between victorious Britain and vanquished Italy. This is not worthy of much credence, especially because Hitler will not allow Italy to make a separate peace with England. It is also stated that Mussolini desires that his armies in Libya should be allowed a safe passage into Spain. That means that the Italian Dictator foresees the complete collapse of his Empire in Libya in a very short time. It was in 1911 that Mussolini counselled his country not to enter into the Libyan campaign and it is a tragic turn of circumstances that, what he fought against three decades ago, should now be brought about by his own folly. Whatever that may be, such transport of troops would necessarily mean that the Italian Navy would have to come out of its hiding place and that will be a signal for the British Navy to show its fangs. Another report which is current is that Mussolini has begged General Franco, because of his Latin sympathies and the help which he received from Italy in the Spanish Civil War, to allow German troops to pass through Gibraltar, the narrowest point in the Mediterranean, in order to attack the British in East Libya. That of course is a contingency. But the question is whether, when Spain so much desires peace and food, she would involve herself in a fresh struggle the end of which no one can foretell.

THE BALKANS

Mr. Winston Churchill made a marked reference to the position in Bulgaria and told the South-Eastern countries in Europe that their only safeguard lay in their presenting a united front. It is stated that there are 20 German divisions ready to march into Bulgaria. In Bulgaria itself there are many aerodromes which are now stated to be in the hands of Germans and constant pressure is being brought to bear upon that country to join the Axis. A large number of Germans in the guise of tourists have also entered Bulgaria. These measures should have been taken with the connivance of the Government, forgetful of the fate which overtook her when she allied herself with Germany in the last war. Bulgaria has been, it is said, asking Turkey not to consider German troops passing through that country as an unfriendly act, while Turkey, which has an efficient army in Thrace, is telling Bulgaria very plainly that any such act would compel her to fulfil her obligations to Greece and to Great Britain. Events are bound to take a decisive turn in that quarter of Europe very soon.

JAPAN

Not content with these manœvres Hitler is trying to involve Japan in the war by making a simultaneous move against Great Britain in the East when he himself invades England or attacks Great Britain in North Africa or makes a drive through Bulgaria in order to close the eastern end of the Mediterranean. A new National Association has been formed in Japan consisting of representatives of various parties. This party has issued a manifesto warning the United States of America in regard to what it calls its arrogant attempt to interfere with Japan's national policies and to violate Japan's living space. It has called upon Prince Konoye, the Prime Minister, to suppress democratic and Communist ideas and to prepare the country against all eventualities. All the world knows that Germany is trying to use Japan as a means of intimidating American opinion before the United States of America sends increased supplies to Great Britain, and doubts whether Japan would consent to be a party to these manœuvres, when its hands are full with the China affair. President Roosevelt made a statement in the course of this week that he does not anticipate any trouble in the Pacific and that, if there should be any development in that part of the world, American supplies to Great Britain will not decrease on that account. The situation, to all appearances, appears to be threatening. Americans have again been advised to leave the Far East and Washington reports suggest that disturbed conditions exist there. The Acting Prime Minister of Australia and the Labour Leader Mr. Curtin have issued a joint statement saying that in the considered opinion of the War Council the war had moved into a new stage involving the utmost gravity and that the greatest effort of preparedness was essential. Despite these threats it is not unsafe to assume that Japan is not likely to take steps which are likely to lead her to war. There are various parties and cliques in Japan which are divided in regard to economic, political and foreign policies. Some are for an agreement with Russia and pushing ahead with the southward advance to Malaya, the Netherlands East Indies and Burma. These are "Radicals." There are "Reactionaries" who would not have anything to do with Russia. It is also a fact that there is apprehension that the Axis' partnership has not resulted in any tangible results for Japan. There is reason to believe that Germany has again changed her tactics and is now using Japanese hostility as a means of making Russia more malleable in the West. There is a section of opinion which thinks that it is no use for Japan to be content with military preparations, but that it should try to solve international difficulties by diplomacy regard

being had to the fact that the British navy is supreme and that the United States of America has decided to help Great Britain. In these circumstances, it is probable that Japan will continue for the present to avoid direct action either with the British Empire and its Allies or with the United States, and the official United States policy is very probably like that of Britain—to go slow on minor issues.

This conclusion is supported by the fact that the French delegation taking part in the peace talks with Thailand in Tokyo is reported to have rejected a demand by Mr. Matsuoka, that it should acknowledge Japanese dominating position in Asia and a statement issued by the official Dutch circles regarding the distinction drawn by the Japanese press and propaganda agencies between the Government of the Netherlands East Indies and the French-Dutch Government in London. The Dutch Minister in Tokyo has made it absolutely clear that the conduct of foreign relations of the Netherlands East Indies rests solely with the Central Government in London, the Governor-General of the Netherlands Indies being the representative there of the Crown. It is likely that Japan will try a hard bargain with Indo-China and secure some bases for her navy and for her air force. Should Japan pursue a forward policy then there are British forces in Singapore and Malaya ready for any contingency. The Air Force in Malaya has been considerably strengthened by squadrons from Singapore. However, Australia and New Zealand are ready to resist any violent changes in the *status quo* in the Far East, an object the recognition of which by Japan, as is well known, is being insisted upon by America.

GENOA

If one fact has been brought into prominence more than another by the shelling of Genoa by the British war ships on Sunday last, it is that the British Navy is supreme and that the navy is much more important than Air Force, however efficient and up-to-date this may be. Italians thought Genoa was fool-proof, and that is why perhaps no Italian warships were found in the vicinity. Genoa is a sea-port and a naval base of Italy; many of her famous warships and submarines have been built there. It is a beautiful city. It has a large naval construction yard and the British unit has been able to sail to the place 900 miles from its base and fling 300 tons of shells on various targets like factories, plants, power-stations, etc., without meeting any patrolling ships or aircraft or U-boats. Mine fields and shore batteries were of no use. This proves beyond any possibility of doubt that sea power is superior to air power in spite of Goering's boasts. The surprise attack on Genoa has had the result of spoiling Hitler's project of making Genoa a base of attack on Bizerta, as Mr. Churchill pointed out in his speech. Lieut.-Commander Thomas Woodroffe has described this operation as a psychological triumph, which has made the Italians, who have already come to the conclusion that their Empire was in jeopardy, also feel that even their motherland was not safe. Further examples of the superiority of sea power will be found in the fall of Eritrea, Somaliland and Abyssinia as withered branches from a tree because no reinforcements have reached those Italian colonies, on account of Britain's supremacy on the sea which holds the key to the Red Sea. The operations in Libya afford another example of the same truth. Sollum, Bordia, Tobruk and Benghazi have all fallen one by one because of the immeasurable strength and great assistance of the British Navy. Benghazi was built in 1935 as a fine harbour which can dock cruisers, destroyers and medium-size warships. It is only 400 miles from Sicily, while a distance of 800 miles separated it from Alexandria. Supplies to Greece can now go regularly without much opposition. Vast supplies are now pouring into Britain from all over the globe and from there they are being taken by sea to wherever they may be required and that is because of Great Britain's naval supremacy.

HITLER AGAIN

(HIS SPEECH ANALYSED.)

Using the very phrases of previous tirades (" they spat at me ", " not a window-pane was broken ", etc., etc.), Hitler on January 30 celebrated the eighth anniversary of the Nazi seizure of power with another immensely long speech.

This speech was obviously designed to encourage the German working class. The reference to Britain as being socially the most backward state in Europe was intended to counteract the increasing hold which the British New Order for Europe and the world is having on the general public of all countries against Hitler's New Order. The Fuhrer's claim that he converted Germany by persuasion and that he achieved his position democratically and it rested on a popular mandate is an unconscious tribute to the system of Government he has spared no pains to denounce. Hitler's speeches provide a marked contrast, by reason of their rating and vulgarity, to the utterances of Messrs. Churchill and Roosevelt.

He ranted once more of the " injustice of Versailles ". But he did not mention that in addition to plundering France of foodstuffs he is forcing from her 20 million Reichsmarks a day for the upkeep of his armies—three times as much the Germans ever had to pay under the Dawes plan.

He returned to his favourite charge that Britain had refused his hand of friendship and his offers of peace. But he did not mention that at Munich Britain took him at his word, and that the world is at war because he broke his word.

Hitler's speech of January 30 may well be considered, thinks Rome, " one of the Fuehrer's best, if not the best "—a tribute which would convey more if these periodical tirades were not almost exactly similar to each other. Of his vocal achievements Hitler himself said in the *Sportpalast* last Thursday : " I talked as much as any human being can ";

His struggle for the " consequent of the German nation ", Hitler declared, had been won by reason and persuasion. On another occasion (the 1936 Party Congress at Nuremberg) he put it in a different way : " Propaganda brought us into power, propaganda has since enabled us to remain in power, and propaganda will give us the means of conquering the world."

Propaganda presumably covers the wanton burning of the Reichstag and the subsequent mock-trial. Perhaps " persuasion " is intended to include the horrors of the concentration camp, the 196 murders of political opponents actually admitted by the Nazis between February and August 1933, and the infamous "Night of the Long Knives " (June 30, 1934) when over 300 " executions " took place of which Hitler publicly announced 77.

As Goering frankly observed at Frankfort on March 3, 1933; " It have not to dispense justice, but to destroy and exterminate ".

The nightmare of Germany's defeat in the last war is ever present in German minds, and Hitler invariably harks back to it. This time he accused not only Churchill of responsibility for the outbreak of that war (when Hitler, according to *Mein Kampf*, fell on his knees and thanked heaven from an overflowing heart) but also Halifax, Eden, Duff Cooper and Hore-Belisha—none of whom, of course, was in office at that time. Of German responsibility, he said, there could be no question —a somewhat ambiguous statement for which he quotes the authority of President Roosevelt. Again we turn to *Mein Kampf*, to find : " It was a fundamental mistake to discuss the question of who was responsible for the outbreak of war, and to declare that the sole responsibility could not be attributed to Germany. The sole responsibility should have been laid on the shoulders of the enemy, without any discussion whatever ".

So much for 1914. In dealing with 1918, Hitler this time made a slip, remarkable when one remembers how many times he has played this part. Early in his speech he referred to the " political, moral and military collapse of Germany ", and later had to correct himself with the familiar slogan : " We were never defeated in the last war."

The simple truth is that Germany, in 1918, was defeated in the field. Weakened by their losses in 1916 and 1917, the Germans lost during the final " Battles of the Hundred Days " at least one-quarter of their remaining troops by capture or desertion, and another quarter in killed or wounded ; strategically, they had been driven back behind their last prepared line of defence, and had been so outmanœuvred that their line of retreat was cut in two by the Ardennes and their lateral communications hopelessly blocked. They submitted to an Armistice in order to avoid complete annihilation. The naval mutinies, the military revolts and the revolution at home came *after*, and not *before*, the defeat of the German Army in the field.

MR. CHURCHILL'S BROADCAST SPEECH

FOURTEEN POINTS TO REMEMBER

The following are a few points from Mr. Churchill's great broadcast speech on Sunday, the 9th February last :—

1. " We have stood our ground and have faced two Dictators in the hour of what seemed their overwhelming triumph and we have shown ourselves capable so far, of standing up against them alone."

2. " After the heavy defeats of the German Air Force by our fighters in August and September, Hitler did not dare to attempt an invasion of this island although he had the need to do so and had made vast preparations. Baffled in this mighty project, he sought to break the spirit of the British nation by bombing first London and afterwards our great cities. It has now been proved to the admiration of the world and our friends in the United States that this form of blackmail by murder and terrorism, so far from weakening the spirit of the British nation, has only roused it to a more intense universal flame than was seen ever before in any modern community."

3. " All through these dark winter months, the enemy has had the power to drop three or four tons of bombs upon us for every ton we could send to Germany in return. We are arranging so that, presently, this will be rather the other way round."

4. " We have broken the back of Winter ; day-light grows ; the R.A.F. grows and is already certainly master of daylight air. The attacks may be sharper but they will be shorter. There will be more opportunities for work and service of all kinds. So, if our first victory was the repulse of the invader, our second was the frustration of his acts of horror and torture against our people at home."

5. " Meanwhile abroad, in Africa, a wounderful thing has happened. One of the two Dictators, the crafty, cold-blooded, black-hearted Italian who had sought to gain an Empire in the cheap by stabbing fallen France in the back has got into trouble."

6. " Without the slightest provocation, spurred on by lust for power and brutish greed, Mussolini attacked and invaded Greece only to be hurled back ignominiously by the

heroic Greek Army who have revived before our eyes the glories that, from a classic age, have gilded their native land."

7. "There began that series of victories in Libya which have broken irretrievably the Italian military power in the African continent. Here then in Libya is the third considerable event upon which we may dwell with some satisfaction."

8. "General Wavell, our able leader, and all the allied ardent men, British, Australian and Indian, of the Imperial Army saw their opportunity. At that time, I ventured to draw General Wavell's attention to the gospel saying mentioned at the seventh verse, where, as you all know, or ought to know, it is written 'Ask and it shall be given, seek and you shall find, knock and it shall be opened unto you. The Army of the Nile has asked and it was given. They sought and has been opened to them. In a campaign of barely eight weeks, which should long be studied as a model of military art, an advance of over 400 miles has been made."

9. "It is right that the Italian people should be made to feel the sorry plight into which they have been led by Mussolini. If the cannonade of Genoa rolling along the coast and reverberating in the mountains has reached the ears of our French companions in their sorrow and misery, it may fill them with the feeling that friends, active friends, are near and that Britannia rules the waves. Events like these are only part of the story of the fall of an Empire that will not take a future Gibbon so long to write as an original work."

10. "Of course, if all the peoples of South Eastern Europe stood together, they would, aided by Britain and Turkey, be able to hold on for several months before a German Army and Air Force in sufficient strength could be assembled to overcome those States. Much might happen in those months, and I am certain much will happen. Nothing is more certain than that if South-Eastern States of Europe allowed themselves to be dealt with piecemeal, they would fall to pieces one by one and they would share the fate of Denmark, Holland, Belgium and Norway and none could tell how long it would be before their day of deliverance came."

11. "An Italian Quisling called Mussolini and a French Quisling called Laval, both in their different ways, are trying to make their countries vassals of Hitler and his New Order so as to enable the Nazis and their Gestapo to enforce their rule upon their fellow-countrymen."

12. "We do not need the gallant armies which are now being formed throughout the American Union. We do not need them this year, the next year or, as far as I am concerned, for any year, but we do need most urgently a supply of war materials and technical apparatus of all kinds. We need them here and we need to bring them here. We shall need a great mass of shipping in 1942, far more than we can build ourselves, if we are to maintain and expand our war effort in the West and the East."

13. "We are far stronger than ever before, incomparably stronger than in July, August and September. Our Navy is more powerful, our flotillas more numerous; we are far stronger actually and relatively in the air above these Islands than when our fighters beat off and beat down the Nazi attack last autumn. Our Army is more numerous, more mobile, far better equipped and trained than in September and still more than in July, and I have the greatest confidence in our Commander-in-Chief, General Brooke, and in Generals of proved ability, who under him guard the different quarters of our land, but most of all I put my faith in the simple effective resolve to conquer or die which will animate nearly four million Britons with serviceable weapons in their hands."

14. "What is the answer I shall give in your name to this great man, the thrice-chosen head of a nation of 130 millions? Here is the answer, I shall give to President Roosevelt: 'Put your confidence in us. Give us your faith and your blessing and under Providence all will be well. We shall not fail or falter. We shall not weaken or tire. Neither the sudden shock of battle, nor the long drawn trials of vigilance and exertion will wear us down. Give us the tools and we will finish the job."

INVASION PROSPECTS

CHURCHILL ON INVASION

"Hitler knows that he must break us in this island or lose the war".—*House of Commons, June* 18, 1940.

"We await undismayed the impending assault. Perhaps it will come tonight. Perhaps it will come next week. Perhaps it will never come . . . But be the ordeal sharp or long, or both, we shall seek no terms, we shall tolerate no parley. We may show mercy, we shall ask for none."—*House of Commons, July* 14, 1940.

"I do not agree with those who assume that after September 15 or whatever is Hitler's latest date, we shall be free from the menace of a deadly attack from overseas."—*House of Commons, September* 5, 1940.

"We must expect that Hitler will make an attempt at what he judges to be the best opportunity."—*House of Commons, September* 19, 1940.

"Our air force is more than holding its own and we are waiting for the long-promised invasion—so are the fishes"—*Broadcast to the French people, October* 21, 1940.

" We have confidence that we shall be able to give a good account of ourselves when the invading forces fall upon us."—*House of Commons, November* 21, 1940.

" It is certain that if Hitler found the invasion of this island difficult in July he found it most difficult in September, and it will not have become easier by February, March or April. But the price of safety is eternal vigilance."—*Speech at Glasgow, January* 18, 1941.

Dealing fully with " the greatest issue ", Mr. Churchill recalled Sir John Dill's warning on 8th February 1941, that Hitler might be forced by strategic, economic and political stress in Europe to try to invade the British Isles in the near future and said that that warning nobody could disregard. " This is a truly mortal struggle and we are working night and day to have everything ready. Of course, we are far stronger than ever before, incomparably stronger than in July, August and September. Our Navy is more powerful, our flotillas more numerous; we are far stronger actually and relatively in the air above these Islands than when our fighters beat off and beat down the Nazi attack last autumn. Our Army is more numerous, more mobile, far better equipped and trained than in September and still more than in July, and I have the greatest confidence in our Commander-in-Chief, General Brooke, and in Generals of proved ability, who under him guard the different quarters of our land, but most of all I put my faith in the simple effective resolve to conquer or die which will animate nearly four million Britons with serviceable weapons in their hands.

" It is not an easy military operation to invade an island like Great Britain without command of the sea and air and then to face what will be waiting for the invader ", but, said Mr. Churchill, he must drop one word of caution. " Next to cowardice and treachery, over-confidence leading to neglect and slothfulness was the worst crime. A Nazi invasion of Britain last autumn would have been a more or less improvised affair. Hitler took it more or less for granted when France surrendered that we should give in too, but we did not and he had to think again. Britain will now be supported by much more equipment and apparatus, all planned and manufactured during the winter. We must be prepared to meet gas attacks, parachute attacks and glider attacks with constancy, foresight and fortitude ".—*Broadcast Speech, February* 9, 1941.

That an attempted German invasion of Britain was scheduled for last September was confirmed on January 28, by the U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

" The truth is ", writes Walter Tschuppik, former editor of the *Prager Tageblatt*, " Hitler had a gigantic plan for the invasion of England, but it was thwarted by England. The near future will clarify this, and when it does, it will be marked as the greatest victory of all times for the English people ".

But, as Churchill warns us, that victory is only the beginning. The alternative German hope of weakening Britain to a point where a compromise peace would be accepted grows fainter, and the co-operation of the U.S.A. which the Nazis have failed to prevent, gives them one more urgent reason for haste.

Since the summer and autumn of last year, when the German invasion attempt failed, Britain's position has greatly improved.

The Italian threat to Egypt and the Middle East has been eliminated, and Greek bases give added strength in the Mediterranean.

In Britain itself there are now 4 million men under arms, and the serious material losses sustained in France have been more than made up. The R.A.F. has proved its qualitative superiority and moves steadily forward towards eventual superiority in numbers. Civilian reactions to ferocious bombing have been tested and found sure, and all manner of A.R.P. defence has feen improved. Meanwhile the military defence has had time to perfect its measures.

NEW FRIGHTFULNESS

New methods of attack to which the Nazis may resort have been fully considered and prepared against in Britain. Among these is the use of poison gas.

No German decision to use gas in the near future has been proved. The possibility of such a step, referred to recently in America, by Colonel Knox, American Minister of Defence, has always existed. All nations have supplies of gas and are defensively armed against it.

That Germany has not so far resorted to gas warfare cannot possibly be attributed to any humane motives. The truth is that its use has offered little prospect of military advantage. Britain is probably better prepared against it than Germany, and retaliation may therefore be feared in Berlin. There is no reason to suppose that these factors do not still operate.

Gas remains for Germany a weapon in the war of nerves.

NEUTRALS ON INVASION PROSPECTS

" There has been a great improvement of the beach defences and a better organization of secondary lines. The job to be done by the Home Guards is seen to be clearly defined, communications are improved, gun positions strengthened. There is no reason for complacency but officers and men know the country, they will be fighting over and their plans of defence have been carefully drawn up. I know the British Army is working on the assumption that the attempt will be made, and I know too that the element of surprise will not be monopolised by the invading forces, for there are surprises awaiting them on, around and behind those beaches ". *Edward Murrow, American Columbia Broadcasting System commentator, January* 20.

(**Continued on Page** 12)

MISLEADING STATEMENTS IN ENEMY BROADCASTS

BROADCASTS IN ENGLISH

Waiting for the Cheers

That Hitler's speech would be described by the powers to whom it was chiefly addressed as a " flop " was the foreboding of the Italian Radio on January 31. " That, alas ", lamented Rome, " is the fate in Britain of nearly all the momentous utterances of the Axis leaders, in peace time and war time ".

However, " the European Press gives much publicity to the Fuehrer's speech." In support of this statement the Italians quote a single Hungarian newspaper, while the Germans declare that Hitler's warning to the U.S.A. found space in the Press of Bulgaria. For that matter it did not pass unnoticed in America, where Mr. Conally, Democrat Senator, declared " We shall not be bullied or intimidated by Hitler ". Referring to the threat to torpedo American ships if they sail to Britain, Senator Carter Glass of the Foreign Relations Committee said: " I think we ought to start torpedoing first ".

Where is the Restraint?

But there is always the fettered German Press to fall back upon, and the Berlin radio says that the *Berliner Boersenzeitung* " contrasts the quiet and restrained assurance of the Fuehrer that he is going to win this war with the unconvincing and superficial official optimism of his adversaries ".

But the free world well knows that Hitler's pronouncements have always been far from quiet and restrained. He boasted that Britain would not fight on, once France was conquered; he promised the German people that British bombs would never fall on their cities; he boasted that he would be in London in September of last year; he promised peace by Christmas. None of these boasts and promises—only few of many he has made —have been fulfilled.

By contrast, Mr. Churchill's speeches have been restrained and frank. He has repeatedly warned the people against undue optimism and has carefully refrained from forecasting what would happen in the uncertain future. Appreciation of this comes from Miss Dorothy Thompson, of the New York *Herald-Tribune*, who believes that because, for one thing, " Churchill has never for a moment encouragd his people to hope for the best, British morale will hold, even through hell."

Brotherly Love

Berlin radio, reporting the " warm recognition in the Italian press " of the eighth anniversary of Hitler's accession to power, says that the Italian papers " write of the intimate material and spiritual relations between the German and Italian peoples."

Last week's hostile demonstrations against the Germans in Turin, Verona, Milan, Trieste and Rome—following the arrival of Nazi troops and Gestapo agents in Italy—were doubtless another manifestation of the intimate material and spiritual relations between the two nations.

For reporting these disturbances, it will be remembered, two United States journalists in Belgrade were subjected to disciplinary measures by the Yugoslav Government, doubtless acting under pressure from the Axis.

Germany and Italy, like all great lovers, cannot bear having their intimacies exposed to the vulgar gaze of the outside world.

Lapse of Memory

No doubt to give the Italians a little much-needed encouragement, the Nazi radio reported on January 30 an Italian submarine's attack on " a British convoy in the Mediterranean, which consisted of five merchant vessels and was escorted by three destroyers ".

But ever since the *Luftwaffe* arrived in Sicily, more than three weeks ago, the very same announcer has been telling us that. " British convoys no longer dare to sail through the Mediterranean, and even British warships can only sail in large formations." Berlin cannot have it both ways.

More Mediterranean Muddle

Three days earlier, on January 27, the Rome wireless had shown itself equally muddled about the state of affairs in the Mediterranean. It reported certain information given (it did not say to whom) " by some British soldiers from Gibraltar who recently paid a visit to Tangier." Rome announces: " It appears from statements made by these British troops that the British Fleet has certainly suffered severe losses in the Mediterranean, and that these losses are being concealed from the troops and sailors."

Rome, however, does not explain (*a*) how the troops knew about these " losses," which were being " concealed " from them, (*b*) how losses of ships can be concealed from the sailors abroad them, and (*c*) what British soldiers were doing in the neutral port of Tangier, anyway.

Atlantic After Thought

Few recent events have upset the Axis propagandists more thoroughly than the arrival of Lord Halifax at Annapons, U.S.A., aboard Britain's newest battleship, *King George the Fifth*. Ever since his appointment to Washington was announced, Axis radio announcers had been hinting darkly that the new Ambassador would be lucky if he ever got to America, as their combined power had swept the Atlantic bare of British ships.

Once Lord Halifax had set foot on American soil, Berlin took exactly twenty-four hours to think it over, then announced that his unhindered crossing " proves that Britain's

command of the sea is a thing of the past." Most of us would have thought it proved just the opposite. Rome's comment, yet another twenty-four hours later, was even more imaginative. It said: "The calm patience of Italian soldiers and Blackshirts at Bardia and Tobruk contrasts gloriously with the haste and panic that distinguished Lord Halifax's crossing to America."

Cryptic Communiques

On January 8 the German wireless reports Lord Halifax's conversation with Mr. Cordell Hull, and his subsequent statement to American reporters to the effect that his views were similar to those of Mr. Hull. "Diplomats of the old school," says Berlin, "would deduce from this cryptic remark that there were some essential points on which Mr. Hull and Lord Halifax agreed to differ."

Perhaps Berlin was thinking about those equally cryptic communiques about "complete identity of views" and "full agreement on all questions of mutual interest" which are issued after every "cordial" conversation between Messrs. Hitler and Mussolini.

A Chesnut Re-Roasted

The Secretary of the United States Treasury, by supporting President Roosevelt's Lease and Lend Bill, has called forth the wrath of Dr. Goebbels, Berlin radio declared on January 29th, "Mr. Morgenthau, is of course, fighting to the last Englishman." But, not so long ago, the same lie-factory was alleging that Britain would fight only to the last Frenchman. That propaganda slogan was proved false, and it is unwise of Berlin to re-adopt it now.

Twelfth Night in Albania

Rome radio quotes on January 27, a telegram addressed to Mussolini from the Secretary of the Albanian Fascist Party: "20,000 Albanian children, assembled in their local Fascist Headquarters, having received today the Duce's Twelfth Night's Gifts, have proclaimed you the living symbol of our fame and victory."

Having failed to arouse much enthusiasm for Fascism among Albanian adults—5,000 of whom are now in concentration camps because of their anti-Italian activities—Mussolini has to content himself with sending (from a safe distance) presents to children's parties and hoping the recipients will show their gratitude by giving him the Fascist salute.

But that does nothing to halt the Greek advance in Albania.

Nazi War Aims

If anything further were needed to convince the world of what the Nazis aim to make of it, it has been provided out of a German mouth, and the mouth of a Minister at that. "*Please do not interpret the word 'slave' as a parable or rhetorical term*", said the German Agriculture Minister Darré to a group of high Party officials early last May. "*We actually have in mind*", he went on with naked simplicity, "*a modern form of mediæval slavery, which we must and will introduce because we urgently need it to fulfil our great tasks*".

The publication of this speech in the well-known American magazine *Life* on December 9, gave Dr. Goebbels, busy with a publicity campaign for the "New Order", a nasty headache. Unable to suppress the leakage, he addressed angry denunciations and denials by radio to India, where at that time nothing was known of Darré's appalling candour. Now the full text has reached this country, and we can read that in the new German living-space (which according to Darré was to begin with "two continents with the exception of Soviet Russia", to be conquered by *Blitzkrieg* by autumn 1940) "*all soil and industrial property of inhabitants of non-German origin will be confiscated without exception*".

Who will get it? The Germans—primarily, of course "worthy members of the Party and solidiers decorated for bravery". They are to form the "aristocracy" of the New Order of which we have heard so much. "*This aristocracy will have slaves assigned to it. These slaves will be their property and will consist of landless non-German nationals*". Further details of the power-drunk plan hardly matter. We have the simple German word for it: slavery, just that.

Speaking in London on January 28, "in the lull before the great battle" Mr. Harold Nicolson looked forward to a system in which "there will be no slave states but a community of free peoples each working out its problems in accordance with its temperament and traditions". Nothing could be more characteristic of the Nazis than their reaction to this statement.

Here is what the broadcast on January 31, using a harassed neutral as cover: Mr. Harold Nicolson's official outline of the new political order in Europe, as drafted by Whitehall and the editorial staff of the *Times*, has caused an outburst of indignation in Sweden. Even the most pro-British newspapers and politicians express their complete disapproval of the British scheme to dominate Europe".

Under the Nazi way of things we should all presumably have to listen to this sort of nonsensical falsification and to nothing else. But it seems that nobody would have to read it. "*These slaves*", Darré has explained, "*will by no means be denied the blessings of illiteracy. Higher education will in future be reserved only for the German population*".

BROADCASTS IN ASIATIC LANGUAGES

Italian Murder Hunt

It is impossible, so it seems, for the Italian radio to resist the temptation to see British machinations behind the deaths of prominent international personalities. This murder hunt

started with the death of Egypt's Prime Minister and since then the British Secret Service has managed to kill many more, including, of course, Lord Lothian. We were solemnly informed on January 28 of the Italian radio's suspicion that the British had quietly put away Mr. Subhas Chandra Bose, and the Italian broadcast of January 29—mirrors of truth that they are—announced that General Metaxas' heart attack was the result of his talks with General Wavell. Not content with its discovery, the Italian radio also saw some mysterious connexion between the deaths of General Metaxas and England's late Premier, Mr. Chamberlain.

Another illustration of the nature of Italian propaganda was provided on January 20, when the Fascist radio stated in its Hindustani broadcast that "various competent circles believe, that since General Metaxas did not accept the London point of view, the British Intelligence Service deemed it fit to remove him from the staff". Two hours later, however, the Italian radio was informing the Arabs that "the British people have also been upset by the death because he was ardently serving British Imperialism on account of his close relations with the British Imperialist financiers".

Obviously, the Italian propaganda has imbibed the profound wisdom of Scrutator's observations, in a German broadcast on January 19, that "it is the principle of modern propaganda not to let your left hand know what your right hand does."

Germans' Fake S.O.S.

The German wireless of January 28 reported the torpedoing of the British ship *Empress of Australia* 200 miles off the coast of Dakar, adding that S.O.S. signals had been received from her. London subsequently revealed that, not only was the vessel safe in port, but in all probability she was there at the actual time when the alleged attack was supposed to have taken place. It is surmised that the Germans were anxious to discover the whereabouts of the *Empress of Australia* and had sent out a fictitious S.O.S. in the hope of learning this.

A Nazi Boast

Dr. Goebbels' propaganda machine is truly unrivalled in the art of the exaggeration and manufacture of news items. But in its Hindustani broadcast of January 27 it surpassed itself. We were treated to an alleged quotation of Mr. Hudson, British Minister of Agriculture, in which he was supposed to have said that every ship coming to Britain was sunk on the way. And this despite the fact that British import figures for the first ten months of 1940 showed a 33 per cent rise over the corresponding period of 1939!

French Reparations to Germany

The German broadcast of January 30 gave currency to the vague reports that unemployment in Paris was decreasing every day. Now we admit that the Germans in France have not yet considered it necessary to antagonize the people with old-fashioned looting, but the effect of their policy is strikingly clear when we consider that the Germans demanded even from unoccupied France as much as 48 per cent of their livestock for themselves. And, furthermore, France is paying for the German army of occupation at the rate of 20 million marks a day, which by the way is three times as much as the burden of reparation fixed under the Dawes Plan about which we heard such lamentations from Germany in the last decade.

False Assumptions

The German broadcast of January 28 assumes that the Mediterranean fighting had driven all British shipping for the Middle East to go *via* the Cape of Good Hope. In fact, however, the bulk of British convoys have for a considerable time gone round the Cape and the supply position in the Middle East is organized and maintained on this basis. Moreover, the Red Sea route also serves the Middle East from India and Australia.

INVASION PROSPECTS

(*Continued from Page 9*)

"If Hitler invades England he will be chased back so fast that he will not know what hit him"—*U.S. war correspondent Quentin Reynolds, quoted January* 18.

"The Germans will encounter very serious difficulties if they attempt to invade Britain . . . Germany would require colossal strength in order successfully to carry out invasion"—*Soviet Military Review, "Red Star", January* 26.

"Hitler's army, though unequalled in history for discipline and training, is not nearly so powerful as the outside world believes . . . The morale and leadership of the British people are superb".—*Captain Maxwell, corpening of the Chicago Tribune reported to January* 30.

N.B.—Please file the Madras War Review regularly for future reference.

[With the compliments of the Director of Information, Madras.]

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